

Facts about the Nordic Council Film Prize - 2009

Purpose

The purpose of the Nordic Council's Film Prize is to promote the range and diversity of Nordic films in all of the Nordic countries, in order to strengthen the Nordic cultural community and develop the Nordic countries as a domestic cultural market, thereby contributing to the strengthening of Nordic films internationally.

The prize-winning film

The prize is announced once per year and awarded during the Session of the Nordic Council at the end of October. The prize will be awarded for an artistically valuable, Nordic-produced feature cinema film with a running time of at least 72 minutes. The film must have had its national cinema première within the 12-month period preceding the national nomination, and before 1 September. The prize will be divided equally between the film's scriptwriter, director and producer, which underlines that film as an art form is the result of close co-operation between these three main functions.

The five nominated films will be announced on Tuesday 1 September. The award-winning film will be announced on Wednesday 21 October.

Criteria for nomination

The nominated films must be embedded to a significant degree in Nordic culture, and must be of high artistic quality, stand out through their artistic originality, and combine and refine the many elements of film in a convincing and integrated work. The nominated films should preferably be in a Nordic language. In its assessment and nominations, the adjudication committee may also lay weight on films which are innovative in their form and/or content in relation to the prevalent film tradition.

National and Nordic Adjudication Committee

The national adjudication committee consists of a member and a substitute appointed by the Nordic Council of Ministers (ministers of culture). The adjudication committee is chosen from among prominent personalities who have taken an analytical and critical approach to film in their work. The adjudication committee should be independent of the national film industry and is appointed for a mandate period of 3 years. The five national committee members watch the five nominated film together in a cinema and choose the winner afterwards giving the reasons for their choice.

Members: Anne Jerslev (Denmark), Johanna Grönqvist (Finland), Sigurjón B. Sigurdsson (Iceland), Le LD Ngyen (Norway) and Eva af Geijerstam (Sweden).
Substitutes: Bo Green Jensen (Denmark), Kati Sinisalo (Finland), Sif Gunnarsdottir (Iceland), Øyvør Dalan Vik (Norway) and Tony Forsberg (Sweden).

Previous winners of the Nordic Council Film Prize

The Nordic Council celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2002 and the Nordic Council Film Prize was awarded for the first time on that occasion. The winner was the Finnish film 'Mies vailla menneisyyttä' ('The Man Without a Past') by Aki Kaurismäki.

The Film Prize was made permanent in 2005 and the following years winners were:

2005: 'Drabet' ('Manslaughter') directed by Per Fly, scripted by Kim Leona, Dorte Høgh, Mogens Rukov and Per Fly, and produced by Ib Tardini for Zentropa, Denmark.

2006: 'Zozo', written and directed by Josef Fares and produced by Anna Anthony for Memfis Film, Sweden.

2007: 'Kunsten at græde i kor' (The Art of Crying') directed by Peter Schønau Fog, written by Bo hr. Hansen (based on a novel by Erling Jepsen) and produced by Thomas Stenderup for Final Cut, Denmark.

2008: 'Du Levende' ('You, the Living), written and directed by Roy Andersson and produced by Pernilla Sandström for Studio 24, Sweden.